

1. (currently amended) A graphical user interface ~~for specifying an action which modifies a value of a record field that is common to records belong to a set thereof stored in a system having at least one memory device, memory device, at least one device for implementing the graphical user interface, and at least one processor having access to the memory device and the graphical user interface device, the graphical user interface specifying a predefined action which modifies a value of a record field that is common to records belonging to a set thereof, the records being stored in the memory devices and the processor belonging to a system which has access to the memory device, executes queries which return records belonging to the set, causing the graphical user interface device to generate and generates and responds to the graphical user interface, responding to inputs therefrom, and automatically executing a predefined query according to a predefined schedule, the predefined query being associated with the predefined action and returning records belonging to the set,~~

the graphical user interface comprising:

a window in the graphical user interface device, the window displaying a table wherein the record field whose value is to be modified by the action has an entry that is selectable by a user of the graphical user interface, the entry including

a first field of the entry that identifies the record field to be modified by the action; and

one or more action fields of the entry that, when the user has selected the entry, the user may set to specify the predefined action,

~~the system responding to the identified record field and the specified action when/whereupon, each time the system processor automatically executes a the predefined query according to the predefined schedule that is associated with the action and the predefined query returns a record that belongs to the set, the processor modifies by modifying the value in the record field in the returned record that is identified by the entry's first field as specified in the one or more action fields of the entry.~~

1 **2.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:
2 the values of the record field identified by the entry's first field belong to one of a
3 plurality of types; and
4 the entry's action fields are determined by the type of the identified field's values.

1 **3.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 2 wherein:
2 the plurality of types include types whose values belong to ordered sets that are
3 defined in the system to which the graphical user interface belongs, types whose values
4 specify times, and types whose values specify persons.

1 **4.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:
2 the user may set the entry's action fields to specify that the record field in the
3 returned record that is identified by the entry's first field be cleared.

1 **5.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:
2 the user may set the entry's action fields to specify a value and to specify that the
3 value be assigned to the record field in the returned record that is identified by the entry's
4 first field.

1 **6.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:
2 when the entry is selected, the user may set the entry's action fields to specify an
3 operation by which a new value for the record field identified by the entry's first field

4 may be computed from a current value which is the identified record field's value in the
 5 returned record when the returned record is returned by the query execution.

1 7. (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 6 wherein:

2 the value of the record field identified by the entry's first field belongs to an
 3 ordered set of values; and

4 the user may set the action fields to specify an increment operation wherein the
 5 new value that is assigned to the identified record field's value in the returned record is a
 6 value that follows the identified record field's current value in the ordered set of values.

1 8. (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the record field identified by the entry's first field may have a null value when the
 3 record is returned by the query execution; and

4 the user may set the entry's action fields to specify an action that is to be
 5 performed when the identified record field in the returned record has the null value and/or
 6 an action that is to be performed when the identified record field in the returned record
 7 does not have the null value.

1 9. (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the user may set the entry's action fields to specify a reference field in the returned
 3 record which is another field that is common to records belonging to the set ~~thereof~~ thereof
 4 and a reference field operation by which a new value in the returned record for the record
 5 field identified by the entry's first field may be computed from a current value of the

6 returned record's reference field, the current value being the value that the returned
7 record's reference field has when the returned record is returned by the query execution.

1 **10.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 9 wherein:

2 the record field identified by the entry's first field in the returned record may have
3 a null value when the record is returned by the query execution; and

4 the user may set the action fields to specify a first reference field and a first
5 reference field operation that is to be performed when the identified record field in the
6 returned record has the null value and/or a second reference field and a second reference
7 field operation that is to be performed when the identified record field in the returned
8 record does not have the null value.

1 **11.** (original) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 9 wherein:

2 the reference field operation assigns the current value of the returned record's
3 reference field to the identified record field in the returned record.

1 **12.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 9 wherein:

2 the identified record field and the reference field have time values; and

3 the user may further set the action fields to specify an amount of time by which
4 the reference field's current value is increased or decreased to compute the new value for
5 the identified record field.

1 **13.** (original) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 12 wherein:

2 the user may further set the action fields to specify the amount of time in one of a
3 plurality of ways.

1 **14.** (original) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 13 wherein:

2 one of the plurality of ways is days; and

3 when days have been specified, the user may further set the action fields to
4 specify whether the days will be computed as business days or calendar days.

1 **15.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 12 wherein:

2 one of the reference fields is a field whose value is always set to the current time
3 when the query execution returns the returned record.

1 **16.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the identified record field has a person value; and

3 the user may set the entry's action fields to specify a role reference field in the
4 returned record from which a new person value for the record field identified by the
5 entry's first field may be obtained, the role reference field being another field common to
6 the record belonging to the set thereof, the role reference field referring to an ordered set
7 of person values wherein one of the person values is a last-used person value, and the role
8 reference field in the returned record being set to the next person value following the last-
9 used person value at the time the returned record is returned by the query execution and
10 | the ~~value~~value of the identified record field in the returned record being set from the
11 value of the role reference field in the returned record.

1 **17.** (canceled)

1 **18.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 16 wherein:

2 another action has been specified which assigns the person reference field a value
3 from a role reference field; and

4 when the returned record is returned by the query execution, actions which assign
5 person fields values from role reference fields are performed prior to other actions.

1 **19.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 16 wherein:

2 the user may further set the action fields to directly specify a person value, the
3 identified record field in the returned record being set from the directly-specified person
4 value when the returned record is returned by the query execution.